

Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between legislative sessions, we strive to offer our email news on a *monthly* basis.

State Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee:**

The ***JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights August 2012*** [report](#) and the [Tracking Arizona's Recovery September 2012](#) are posted at the Arizona State Legislature's website.

According to the Monthly Fiscal Highlights report, "July General Fund collections were 16.2 million above the enacted May budget forecast."

Voter Information and Resources

The **Arizona State Legislature** ballot measure analyses [page](#)

The **Arizona Secretary of State** [web page](#)

The **Arizona Prosperity Project** [ballot page](#) and [primary election results](#)

Interim Committees

If you're interested in following the work of the Interim Committees, the agendas are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or you may **contact the legislator from your area**.

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

District maps are posted [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

S.3465

Care Coordination for Older Americans Act of 2012

Introduced on 8/1/2012 by Senator John F. Kerry, (MA) the bill amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to define care coordination, include care coordination as a fully restorative service, and detail the care coordination functions of the Assistant Secretary, and for other purposes.

On 8/1/2012, the bill was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

S3489

Good Neighbor Social Security Office and Community Protection Act of 2012

Introduced on 8/2/2012 by Senator Scot P. Brown (MA), the bill's intent is to protect senior citizens, disabled persons, veterans, and other beneficiaries and customers of the Social Security Administration by reforming the process for closure of field offices.

On 8/2/2012, referred to Committee on Finance.

S.3490

SAVE Elders Act of 2012

Introduced on 8/2/2012 by Senator Scott P. Brown, (MA)

Stop Abuse, Violence, and Exploitation of Elders Act of 2012 or the SAVE Elders Act of 2012 - Amends the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to designate specified funds from the Crime Victims Fund for grants for compensation and assistance to victims of elder abuse.

Defines "elder abuse" under that Act: (1) to mean the abuse, exploitation, or neglect of an individual who is age 65 or older and lawfully present in the United States; and (2) with respect to a state that receives a grant, to include any other conduct that is defined as such under the laws of the state.

Requires the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime to use such funds to make grants to states to support: (1) eligible crime victim assistance programs that provide assistance to victims of elder abuse; and (2) programs that improve the investigation, handling, and prosecution of cases of elder abuse.

Apportions specified percentages of grant amounts among the states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands and requires the amounts remaining after such apportionment to be distributed among the states based on:

- (1) the population of individuals age 65 or older in a state relative to the population of such individuals in all states,
- (2) the population of individuals age 65 or older in a state in relation to the population of the state, and
- (3) the overall rate of crime in a state.

On 8/2/2012, S.3490 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Related bills: S.3294

S.3536

VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2012

Introduced on 9/12/2012 by Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT), the bill's intent is to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes.

On 9/12/2012, S.3536 was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.RES.553

A resolution designating September 22, 2012, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

Introduced on 9/12/2012 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI), S.RES.284 passed/agreed to in Senate. Status: Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

OTHER NEWS

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services** - information about the **Aging & Disabilities Resource Centers/ADRCs** options counselors

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120911c.html>

From the **Administration for Community Living**

Monday, September 10th marked the 2012 National Suicide Prevention Day and the release of the updated National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**
Medicare Policy, September 10, 2012

Repealing the Affordable Care Act – Implications for Medicare Spending and Beneficiaries is provided [here](#).

Latest information on the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* can be found [here](#).

Transportation Information

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration once again selected Easter Seals, Inc. and the National Association of Area Agencies

on Aging (n4a) to administer the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) effective July 1, 2012. More information can be found [here](#).

From the **Federal Transit Administration, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century/*MAP-21** is provided [here](#).

Fact Sheet on Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Section 5310 is provided [here](#).

More transportation news...

National Highway Safety Traffic Administration – 2010 data

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811640.pdf>

National Institutes of Health – information for older drivers

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2012/nia-21.htm>

Reconnecting America's Policy Brief on Locating Affordable Housing Near Transit can be found [here](#).

From the **National Council on Aging, *Fall Prevention*** [Fact Sheet](#)

Flu + You information is provided [here](#).

From **USA.gov**

Up to 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. Although nothing can guarantee that you won't become a victim, there are things you can do to [help minimize your risk](#), including:

- Guarding your Social Security number.
- Shredding documents with personal information before disposing of them.
- Using intricate passwords.
- Verifying a source before sharing any personal information.
- Being on the lookout for online scammers and thieves.
- Keeping your purse, wallet, and personal information secure.

The best way to detect identity theft is to monitor your accounts and bank statements each month and [check your credit report](#) regularly. Learn more about [how to detect identity theft](#).

If you discover that you are a victim of identity theft, [take steps to respond and recover](#) as soon as possible. You can find [forms, sample letters, and other tools](#) from the Federal Trade Commission.

September is **National Preparedness Month**. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) leads this annual effort through its [Ready Campaign](#), in partnership with [Citizen Corps](#) and The Ad Council.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition National Falls Prevention Awareness Day

WHEN: Friday, September 21, 2012, 9:30 to 11:30 am, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Sonntag Pavilion and Marley Lobby, 350 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, Arizona

More information is provided at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/AZFallPreventionFlyer_ENG.PDF

Spanish language flyer is linked [here](#).

WHAT: Arizona Attorney General and Armed Forces Shred-A-Thon

WHEN: September 22, 2012, 7:30 am to 11:00 am, National Guard, 5636 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85008. Documents can be dropped off at six recruiting stations for shredding from September 17 to 21st.

For more information including locations, go to:

http://www.azag.gov/press_releases/sept/2012/ShredathonFlyer.pdf

WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging 21st Annual Elder Issues Conference *Creating Caring Communities: Hope for the Challenges Ahead*

WHEN: October 4, 2012, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff AZ

More information is provided [here](#).

WHAT: Pima Council on Aging safeTALK; suicide alertness for everyone

WHEN: Thursday, October 4, 2012, 9 am to 12:00 noon, Pima Council on Aging, 8467 E. Broadway Blvd, Tucson AZ 85710

For more information, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/SafeTALKRegistration_100412.pdf.

WHAT: 23rd Annual Conference of The National Adult Protective Services Association *Ending Adult Abuse: On the Horizon?* Elder Financial Exploitation Summit

WHEN: Conference - October 16 – 18; Summit - October 19th, Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort, Phoenix, Arizona

More information is provided [here](#).

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 24th Annual Fall Symposium

WHEN: October 25 – 27, 2012, Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Conference Center, Chandler Arizona

For more information, see the website page linked [here](#).

Northern Arizona Resources

You can view the September 2012 issue of *The Caregiver Connection* [here](#).

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Enjoy the fall season!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging